

feud, thoroughly satisfied that the best interests of the A. S. cause  
require this new organization. The Rubicon is passed, and I trust  
there will be no retreating now. Under such circumstances, if I  
were in Massachusetts, I should go ahead, if I went alone.

12th

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

Boston Mass.



Our State society meets at Worcester during the session of the  
Legislature in January or February, time to be decided upon by  
our Ex. Committee. It will be a very important meeting.  
Can you not come down? My wife writes in regard to  
Mrs P. whom we remember with much interest.

Yours truly, Wm. Brewster

of think a real desideratum. The term N. England, as applied to the new society, seems to be at present necessary, chiefly because the term Massachusetts is already appropriated, and any less broad title, would bring the new into more direct collision with the existing one. It is proposed I perceive to limit the new society to persons holding "evangelical sentiments." My desire is, that persons of this description may have the proslavery influence checked in the city, and that this object should be effected, if practicable, without the necessity of a distinctly exclusion article. It is desirable that the society should start as strong as possible as to numbers, and I hope that every thing possible will be done to this effect. I do not feel however very sanguine on this point. Let it start on high ground as to principle and carry on its operations efficiently and with a christian spirit, and numbers cannot fail to follow. I should be glad however, if it could be strong enough at the outset, to sustain at least one lecturer in the field. We have no occasion, so far as we are ourselves concerned for any new organization in Maine. We feel however a deep interest, and are in fact deeply implicated "in or will" in the various things like in Massachusetts. Boston is to all practical intents our Capital, every impulse there, is felt immediately here, and we can judge by much that is done by the leading of Mass. abolitionists as by our own. I cannot now state a list of the reasons, which lead me earnestly to desire that the new organization should go ahead and that strongly. I hope that the attacks of Mr. Garrison, will be suffered to pass unnoticed, that nothing will be done, that can by any possibility be avoided to put the society in collision with the Massachusetts society, and that it will labor efficiently for the good of the slave, proving by its works the expediency and benefits of its formation. Much Bro. Phelps will depend upon you, and I am highly gratified to perceive, that with what you start as to its expediency, yet that the movement will have the benefit of your counseil. I trust it will ever long bear the benefit of your active cooperation. I am 1st -

treatment of ministers generally, friendly as well as foes, would I  
should think, if they had a particle of respect, exclude  
them from a society which is mainly under his influence.  
I rejoice therefore in the proposed new organization, as open-  
ing the way for all who are really ready to adopt our prin-  
ciples, in Massachusetts especially, to become connected with  
the National Society, without being in any <sup>way</sup> responsible for  
Mr Garrison's doings. I have been very anxious that the new  
society should take thorough and high ground as to prin-  
ciples, and to not to modify in the least the most clear and  
unquestionable expression of them for the sake of numbers. Con-  
sidering that ~~this might be~~ there might be danger here, in  
my letter to Dear Garrison, to which you refer, I exhorted him  
specifically on that point. I agree with you fully as to your  
views of the stand which the new society should take, and  
shall be happy to use any influence I may have according  
to your desire. It is my opinion, however, that the organization  
had better be completed before the meeting of the Mass. Soc.  
I should then, as I presume it will, drop the Liberator as its or-  
gan + do ~~so~~ few as sustaining it by pecuniary aid is concerned, yet  
it will still without doubt be sustained by the "abolitionism"  
of the state in a private or individually way, what to all  
practical intents and purposes is equally as bad. I think  
that the good of the cause imperiously demands a new  
abolition paper to be published in Boston, and I see  
no way, in which this can be effected under existing  
circumstances, without the organization of a new Society.  
I feel some trouble as to the name of the new Society. Boston  
ought to be a great center of influence on the S. S. question,  
and a N. England Soc, which should hold its annual  
meetings there, and make it ~~the~~ its head quarters, is

Brunswick Nov 2<sup>o</sup> 1837  
Mr Smythe.

PHELPS  
MSS.

77  
Dear Bro. Phelps,

I had been meditating for some time a letter to you previous to the receipt of yours of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult, which has afforded me very great satisfaction. I had previously feared that your sympathy with Mr Garrison on the slavery question, might lead you to overlook too far his faults on other matters. I have long hoped, that as the A. S. cause advanced, and the number of its able and judicious advocates increased, Mr Garrison would be led to correct his more prominent errors, or at least that he would be <sup>more</sup> ~~far~~ lost in the crowd, as to render them less palpable and injurious to us. But I have been obliged, though reluctantly, to give up all hope of any change for the better in him. I have never known him in any instance to yield to the advice, even of his friends, and co-workers, and now that he has come to the belief of his own <sup>entire</sup> sanctification, he will I presume more tenaciously than ever look upon himself as infallible and perniciously neglect all counsel but that of his own spirit. I can excuse him to a considerable extent for his denunciations, but I dislike them notwithstanding, and know that he has in this state deeply injured the cause of the slave by them. We could get along easily with the opposition of Bro Cummings and others in this state, if Garrison were not perpetually putting clubs into their hands to beat out our brains. The no slaves, no government, perfection theory, which he has adopted, and which I believe it is not in your power or in the power of any ~~other~~ to prevent him from "softening up the Liberator" has settled the question as to my direct cooperation with him in the A. S. cause. I do not see how the ~~orthodox~~ clergymen of Massachusetts, can unite with a society of which he is the representative and organ. His